

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, November 23-27, 2020

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USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

India Notifies Draft Amendments for New and Modified Standards on Various Food Products – [link](#)

On November 9, 2020, the Government of India (GOI) notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) a draft regulation for new and revised standards for raw edible oil, multi-source edible vegetable oil, dehydrated vegetables, protein rich Atta (i.e., whole meal wheat flour), honey, animal feed requirements, food additives and microbiological standards for food grain, among others. The WTO notification number is G/TBT/N/IND/174 and the comment period deadline is January 7, 2021.

Exports Drive Improvements in the Spanish Dairy Sector - [link](#)

The Spanish dairy sector continues to improve its efficiency by increasing milk deliveries and milk per cow ratio. In 2020, Spanish total production of cow milk may increase slightly to 7.3 million tons despite the COVID-19 crisis. During this period, Spanish household consumption of dairy products increased sharply. However, the closure of the hospitality sector in Spain and worldwide in response to COVID-19 related measures affected the domestic and external demand for Spanish high-valued cheese. Consequently, total Spanish dairy exports may lower slightly in 2020. However, the Spanish dairy industry expects exports to rebound in 2021.

China - Food Service-Hotel Restaurant Institutional – [link](#)

Report Highlights: China's Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional (HRI) sectors recorded \$687 billion in sales revenue in 2019, a 9 percent increase from the previous year. With the onset of COVID-19 in December of 2019, demand patterns for HRI sales underwent significant changes with first quarter sales contracting but rebounding in the second quarter of 2020. On the positive side, China instituted a tariff exclusion process to waive the Section-301 retaliatory tariffs on imports of U.S. agricultural products.

South Africa Repeals the Contentious Regulations Relating to Health Messages on Container Labels of Alcoholic Beverages - [link](#)

In October 2020, South Africa published a notice repealing the regulations relating to health messages on container labels of alcoholic beverages (No. 1143). The repeal of this regulation was expected given the wide criticism and overwhelming comments from the domestic industry and international stakeholders including the United States. This repeal provides relief to the domestic industry and international trading partners, including U.S. exports of liquor products amounting to US\$17.4 million in 2019. However, Post expects that updated regulations will be proposed again in future, given the South African government mandate to address alcohol abuse and measures to reduce the dangers associated with the consumption of alcohol in South Africa.

Saudi Arabia - Food Service - Hotel Restaurant Institutional – [link](#)

Saudi Arabia is home to an over-sized and resilient hotel, restaurant and institutional (HRI) industry that is a promising market for U.S. exporters. In addition to local cultural preferences, demand is driven by religious pilgrims and foreign labor. In 2019, total consumer food service revenue was approximately \$21.7 billion, but



the market experienced a sharp contraction in 2020 due to COVID-19 and lower oil prices. While demand at quick service restaurants has largely rebounded, partly due to home delivery apps, fine dining establishments have been slower to recover. In 2021, Post expects the HRI sector to resume its long-term growth of approximately three percent per year once the economy overcomes the impact of COVID-19.